Access to undesirable channels under DTH

2088. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the given security scenario and the coming terrorists threats in what manner Government plan to regulate access to the undesirable channels under the DTH mode; and

(b) what are Government's plans to prevent the potentially dangerous growth of unorganised market in the manufacturing of smart cards for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The existing license conditions for setting up and operating DTH Service in India contain adequate safeguards with regard to carriage of undesirable contents in DTH service. The Terms and Conditions of License Agreement, *inter alia,* make it obligatory on the part of DTH licensee to adhere to the Programme Code and the Advertising Code as laid down by the Government. Further, use of DTH service for anti-national activities would be construed as an offence punishable under the Indian Penal Code and applicable laws and will attract immediate termination of license.

(b) The matters is being looked into.

Modernisation of Prasar Bharati

2089. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has sought World Bank assistance in its modernisation efforts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the assistance sought from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Arrears of Publications with DAVP

2090. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge amounts of arrears of, publications are pending for payment with DAVP;

(b) if so, the details thereof, publication-wise;

(c) by when these payments are expected to be cleared and who is responsible for such a state of affairs; and

(d) what effective steps Government propose to take to avoid recurrence of such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency for releasing Government advertisements on behalf of the client Ministries/Departments and handles a large volume of business annually. All efforts are made to make payments promptly. However, sometimes on account of late receipt of the funds from client Ministries/ Departments, delay occurs in making payments to the publications.

(b) The details of the publication-wise bills pending for want of funds from the client Ministries/Departments as on 15.3.2005 upto the year 2003-04 is given in the Annexure.

[See Appendix 204 Annexure No 19]

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made to clear these payments as early as possible. Ministries/Departments have been requested to honour commitments expeditiously and place funds at the disposal of DAVP for early clearance of bills. Sometimes delay in clearance of bills occurs due to late receipt of bills from newspapers. A special drive was recently launched by DAVP to clear the backlog on this count and an amount of Rs. 3,16,68,288/- was paid by DAVP to clear the outstanding bills pertaining to the period of January 2002 to June 2004. DAVP has also asked the Ministries/Departments to authorise DAVP to incur expenditure upto the limits specified for the publicity activity, in the beginning of the financial year itself so that the payment to the Newspaper/other media is released without delay.

Radio and TV coverage in Uttaranchal

†2091. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.